

Wallula to Walla Walla Corridor Study: Phases 7 & 8

Four-laning US Highway 12



What is the purpose of this study?

The Wallula to Walla Walla corridor study was originally funded to study alignment alternatives and document environmental impacts for a new four-lane highway from Wallula to Walla Walla. The Frenchtown to Walla Walla section (Phase 6) was broken out when additional funding became available. The corridor study is now developing a recommendation for the final location of the proposed new alignment from Wallula to Frenchtown, and finalizing the environmental documentation. The new four-lane highway will be north of the existing US 12 highway.

What has been accomplished so far?

WSDOT and our consultant, David Evans and Associates (DEA) have analyzed the archaeological, historical, wildlife, endangered species, and engineering impacts for three alternates. This analysis determined the northern alignment had the fewest impacts to the environment and was proposed to move forward into the next step of development.

What are the next steps?

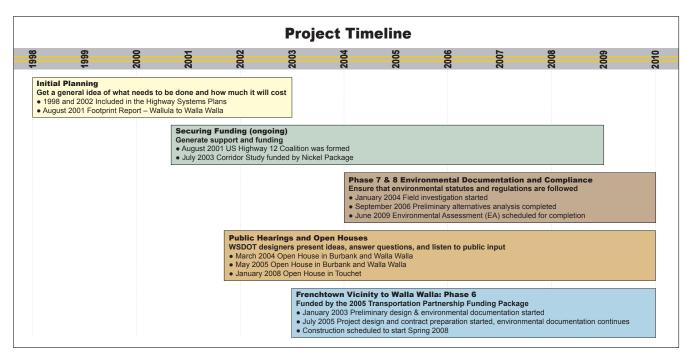
We will continue to refine the northern alignment and further document our impacts to the environment as we complete the Environmental Assessment (EA).

What will the Environmental Assessment accomplish?

The EA will identify constraints for the proposed highway, including social, economic, historical, wildlife, environmental, engineering, and financial. We will also develop preliminary project schedules and the estimated cost to build this four-lane highway from Wallula to the Frenchtown Monument vicinity.

Currently Identified Areas of Concern Areas That Should Be Avoided This includes the McNary Wildlife Refuge, wind turbines, historical sites, and landfills. Environmental regulations and economic considerations require that these areas be avoided unless no other reasonable alternative exists. **Areas That Should Be Avoided** Relative areas are wetlands, floodplains, and significant habitat. Going through these areas would require actions to reduce or eliminate negative impacts, resulting in significantly increased project costs. **Evaluation Areas** This area is being evaluated in-depth. Based on current information, the new highway will likely be located somewhere within this band unless something critical is discovered. IT'S YOUR NICKEL.

WATCH IT WORK.



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